

Money Lessons

Every day, one sees hundreds of advertisements influencing people to purchase this type of clothing, or this toy, and the list goes on. Many of these items are stylish and the epitome of what is cool and popular. Actors, sports stars, and other celebrities endorse a great deal of these items. As a kid and young adult, one often does not realize the importance of money and the amount he spends. As generations pass, the amount of time it takes one to begin spending decreases. Kids and young adults often feel pressure and other stimulating feelings that cause them to purchase an item they later regret. I often make mistakes when purchasing products. One particular purchasing error was when I bought a mountain board.

In the summer of 2003, I often searched the Internet at night. Being interested in outdoor sports and activities, I soon began to find many websites with mountain boards for sale. A mountain board is a very neat toy. A mountain board is like a hybrid consisting of a snowboard and skateboard. The board has wheels like a skateboard, but they are much bigger and knobbier. Similar to a snowboard, the mountain board has an area to hold one's feet to the board. This device is known as the board's bindings. The board is longer than a skateboard, but shorter than a snowboard. The purpose of the board is to ride on trails and other off road terrain. It is very similar to snowboarding, except it can be performed without snow. The sport is not well known at the time being, but it is growing and becoming more popular as time passes. Being the active person I am, the thought of a mountain board became appealing. I soon began to notice how often mountain boards were on television advertisements and shows. One evening, I watched a thirty-minute television program strictly about mountain boarding and the sport. The

sport became more and more enticing to me. I learned that it greatly helped your snowboarding ability. I snowboard so this caught my attention immediately. I thought a mountain board would be an excellent tool I could utilize in many ways. I viewed the board as another fun toy to get me outdoors and stay healthy. I envisioned a perfect world with endless places to ride. That summer I mowed two yards every week for thirty dollars. I soon began to save every penny I earned. I became niggardly in the way I spent my money. I had one thing on my mind and one thing only. I was going to purchase a mountain board and take up the sport. I found an Internet website where I could purchase a mountain board package for two hundred dollars. The package included the board, a sticker package, a mountain board magazine, and a DVD. Without much planning or preparation, I gathered all the money I earned from working and purchase the mountain board package.

Soon after I purchased the mountain board, I began to regret the decision I had made. First off, there were no trails or designated areas specifically designed to mountain board on in the area in which I lived. Another major hindrance to the sport was the absence of mountain boarders in the community. Part of the fun involved with sports and recreation is the fellowship with others. With the lack of fellow mountain boarders in the community, this was not feasible.

Although I regret the purchase of this item, it was also a very valuable lesson. The experience taught me to think and analyze a situation or product before coming to a conclusion. I need to take more time to think instead of being so impulsive in buying. The lesson taught me to make sure I would be able to get plenty of use out of the product before actually purchasing the item. I also learned that things are not always as dazzling

as they appear on television and other advertisements. P.T. Barnum was correct when he stated, “A sucker is born every minute”.

Everyone makes mistakes when it comes to purchasing items. My fallacy occurred when I purchased a mountain board without properly researching the product and its pros and cons. Like many others, I was excited by the images I witnessed on television and the Internet. I failed to thoroughly inspect the product and the use I would receive from it. We often dismiss the importance of money and our spending habits. One often feels pressure to purchase an item because it is popular and sponsored by this sports star or this actor. Every day one views many advertisements; however, one must learn money management and fall into the act of impulse buying. When one fails to make the right decision when purchasing an item, one must learn from these mistakes in order to improve both short and long term money management.